

55. The network of claim 50, wherein said storage means comprises a digital audio tape (DAT) drive.

56. The network of claim 54 further comprising a host adapter for activating the hard disk drive to retrieve select audio signals stored thereon.

57. The network of claim 55, wherein audio signals selected for retrieval on a first digital logger are communicated over said bus and played back on a second digital logger.

R E M A R K S

Original claims 1-24, as amended, and new claims 27-57 are pending in this application. Original claims 25 and 26 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace the expression "analog voice signals for recording a two-way conversation" with --analog voice signals for recordation-- to indicate that there is no need for the recorded signals to correspond to a "conversation". Similar amendments have been made in independent claims 11, 22 and 24. Support for these amendments is found, for example, at col. 1, l. 7-11; 40-44; col. 2, l. 46-54 of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,005 (the "'005 patent"). Claim 1 has also been amended to replace the term "circuit modules" with --audio circuits--, which finds support, for example, at col. 2, l. 7-11 of the patent. Claim 1 has further been amended to recite --said first bus enabling the addition or removal of circuits--, to more specifically point out and distinctly claim the modular nature of the claimed digital recording logger. Support for this amendment is found, for example, at col. 4, l. 12-44 of the patent. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite --a host computer for controlling the logger--, which expression finds support, for example, at col. 1, l. 32-38 and Fig. 1 of the patent. Finally, claim 1 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and clarify the claim language.

Dependent claim 3 has been amended to conform with the language of amended claim 1, to correct a minor typographical error and to replace the term "including" with the term --comprising--. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to correct minor

typographical errors and further to delete the limitation of a hard disk drive for "reproducing" compressed voice data, since a hard drive does not actually reproduce data, but instead permits data to be read. Claim 5 has also been amended to delete the limitation of "a computer in said housing..." which is now incorporated into independent claim 1. Dependent claim 7 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to clarify the claim language.

Independent claim 11 has been amended as noted above, and further to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "circuit module(s)." Further, to more clearly indicate that the claim is directed to the networking aspect of the present invention, the claim has been amended to delete the limitations reciting: "a first bus ...", "a multiplexer circuit..." and "a second bus...", which limitations are not required. Independent claim 24 has been amended similarly to delete the corresponding limitations. Claim 11 has also been amended to replace "network system" with --network--, which term adequately reflects the nature of the claimed apparatus. Claims 12-21, which depend from claim 11, have been amended accordingly to delete the term "system". Additional amendments correct minor typographical errors in claim 11. Claims 16-19 and 21 have been amended in a manner consistent with the amendments of base claim 11.

Independent claim 22 has been amended as noted above and further to replace the term "circuit modules" with --circuits--. Finally, independent claim 24 has been amended as noted above, and further to delete the limitations of "installing a second computer..." and "installing a third bus..." and to add the limitation of --connecting the installed loggers via local area network (LAN) bus--, in order to more clearly point out the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

Added claims 27-36 depend from the amended original claims 1-24 and are directed to more specific aspects of the invention. The language of new claims 27 and 28 is supported, for example, in the specification of the '005 patent at col. 3, l. 65 to col. 4, l. 5. New dependent claims 29, 31 and 35 are directed to the use of the logger(s) for playback and find support, for example, in the language of the original claims. Claims 30 and 33 specify that the recorded voice signals correspond to two-way conversation, which limitation is

supported in the language of the original claims. Claim 32 is directed to recording voice data while retrieving previously stored voice data and is supported, for example, in the abstract of the patent and the specification at col. 3, l. 60 to col. 4, l. 5. Claims 34 and 36 are directed to a network of loggers having one or more workstations capable of retrieving compressed voice data, and find support, for example, at col. 4, l. 53-67.

Added independent claims 37 and 50 define alternative embodiments in accordance with the present invention and find support in the language of the original claims, as well as the disclosure of the '005 patent, for example, at col. 1, l. 31-62; col. 4, l. 12-44; col. 4, l. 53-67 and Figs. 1-3. Claims 38-48 and 51-57 depend from claim 37 and 50 respectively, and cover additional aspects of the claimed invention, which find support in the language of the original claims, as well as Figs. 1-3 and their description in the '005 patent. No new matter has been added by these new claims, so that their entry at this time is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

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